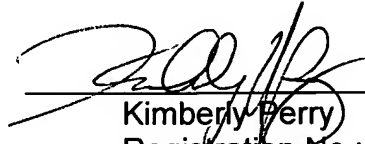


Prompt and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any question concerning this response, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number below. If there is any fee due in connection with this response, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/29/05

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Perry  
Registration No.: 43,612  
Attorney for Applicants

U.S. Surgical, a division of  
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP  
150 Glover Avenue  
Norwalk, CT 06856  
(203) 845-4562